

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A terminal, comprising:

 a terminal connecting portion, having a tubular shape, and receiving a mating terminal;

 a wire press-contacting portion, including a press-contacting blade for press-contacting a wire, and the press-contacting blade having a blade width larger than a width of the terminal connecting portion; and

 an interconnecting portion, connecting the terminal connection portion and a wire press-contacting portion,

 wherein a press-contacting direction in which the wire is press-contacted with the wire press-contacting portion is parallel to a terminal fitting direction of the mating terminal into an internal space of the terminal connecting portion.

2. (original): The terminal as set forth in claim 1, wherein the interconnecting portion has a press-contact receiving face for receiving a press-contacting force acting on the press-contacting blade; and

 wherein the press-contact receiving face abuts against an inner wall of a connector housing so that the press-contacting force is received by the inner wall of the connector housing through the press-contact receiving face when the wire is press-contacted with the press-contacting blade.

3. (original): The terminal as set forth in claim 2, wherein the press-contact receiving face is formed at a rear side of the press-contacting blade.

4. (original): The terminal as set forth in claim 1, wherein the press-contacting blade is formed by a flat plate having a groove with which the wire is press-contacted.

5. (original): The terminal as set forth in claim 1, wherein the wire press-contacting portion is spaced a prescribed distance from the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.

6. (currently amended): A connector, comprising:

a plurality of terminals; and

a connector housing, receiving the terminals, each of the terminals, including:

a terminal connecting portion, having a tubular shape, and receiving a mating terminal;

a wire press-contacting portion, including a press-contacting blade for press-contacting a wire, and the press-contacting blade having a blade width larger than a width of the terminal connecting portion; and

an interconnecting portion, connecting the terminal connection portion and ~~a~~the wire press-contacting portion,

wherein a press-contacting direction in which the wire is press-contacted with the wire press-contacting portion is parallel to a terminal fitting direction of the mating terminal into an internal space of the terminal connecting portion; and

wherein the terminal connecting portions of the terminals are received in the connector housing in parallel so that the press-contacting blades are arranged in a staggered manner.

7. (currently amended): The connector as set forth in claim 6, wherein the interconnecting portion has a press-contact receiving face which abuts against an inner wall of the connector housing so that a press-contacting force acting on the press-contacting blade is received by the inner wall of the connector housing when the wire is press-contacted with the press-contacting blade; and

wherein the connector housing has a support jig-inserting portion into which a support jig for receiving the press-contacting force through the inner ~~face~~wall of the connector housing is inserted.

8-11. (canceled).

12. (new): A connector, comprising:

a plurality of terminals; and

a connector housing, receiving the terminals, each of the terminals, including:

a terminal connecting portion, having a tubular shape, and receiving a mating terminal;

a wire press-contacting portion, including a press-contacting blade for press-contacting a wire, and the press-contacting blade having a blade width larger than a width of the terminal connecting portion; and

an interconnecting portion, connecting the terminal connection portion and the wire press-contacting portion,

wherein a press-contacting direction in which the wire is press-contacted with the wire press-contacting portion is parallel to a terminal fitting direction of the terminal connecting portion,

wherein the terminal connecting portions of the terminals are received in the connector housing in parallel so that the press-contacting blades are arranged in a staggered manner,

wherein the interconnecting portion has a press-contact receiving face which abuts against an inner wall of the connector housing so that a press-contacting force acting on the press-contacting blade is received by the inner wall of the connector housing when the wire is press-contacted with the press-contacting blade, and

wherein the connector housing has a support jig-inserting portion into which a support jig for receiving the press-contacting force through the inner wall of the connector housing is inserted.

13. (new): The connector as set forth in claim 7, wherein the press-contact receiving face is formed at a rear side of the press-contacting blade.

14. (new): The connector as set forth in claim 6, wherein the press-contacting blade is formed by a flat plate having a groove with which the wire is press-contacted.

15. (new): The connector as set forth in claim 6, wherein the wire press-contacting portion is spaced a prescribed distance from the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.

16. (new): The connector as set forth in claim 12, wherein the press-contact receiving face is formed at a rear side of the press-contacting blade.

17. (new): The connector as set forth in claim 12, wherein the press-contacting blade is formed by a flat plate having a groove with which the wire is press-contacted.

18. (new): The connector as set forth in claim 12, wherein the wire press-contacting portion is spaced a prescribed distance from the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.

19. (new): The terminal as set forth in claim 1, wherein the press-contacting blade has a planar face which is positioned above the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.

20. (new): The connector as set forth in claim 6, wherein the press-contacting blade has a planar face which is positioned above the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.

21. (new): The connector as set forth in claim 12, wherein the press-contacting blade has a planar face which is positioned above the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.